

AN Advantage of Fastidious Smoking.

[Original.]

I was traveling in France in a railway train shut up in a compartment with but one person besides myself, a woman. I am an inveterate smoker, and it occurred to me that perhaps the lady would not object to my lighting a cigar. I asked her permission, she assented graciously, and, taking one from my cigar case, I lighted it. It was a long cigar, pointed at both ends, and remarkably well made. I mention this because if it had been loosely wrapped probably there would be nothing of especial interest in this story. As I began to puff comfortably, I drew from my pocket a morning paper and commenced to read.

"I envy you your solace, monsieur," the lady remarked. "Traveling is dull, and we women have no such way of passing the time."

I lowered my paper and for the first time took a look at her. She was passably good looking, comparatively young and very well dressed. Since she had been so good as to permit me to smoke I considered it only fair that I should take her hint and relieve her ennui by chatting with her. I was aware that the day of making acquaintances in this way even in America had passed, and even there it had never been usual for the woman to take the initiative, but my companion looked bored, and I attributed her desire simply to be temporarily amused.

I tested her on different topics and soon found that she was most interested in pleasures—exciting pleasures, such as the theater and the race course. She preferred, however, to talk of novels and evinced an especial interest in those of Emile Zola. Indeed, she conversed about the characters in those unconventional romances with a freedom that arrested my attention. And it seemed to me that the more unconventional the characters the better she liked them. Finally, taking the latest of Zola's stories published from her traveling bag, she opened it at a certain page and asked me to sit beside her and read a passage, giving as an excuse for not doing so herself that she was a very poor reader.

"Pardon me," I said. "I am smoking. The fumes would be unpleasant to you."

"Not at all. I love them."

"But," I protested, "you see that the ash on my cigar is very long. If I should move it would fall. Now, I am fastidious about my smoking. I love a freshly lighted cigar, and so long as the ash remains in its place the cigar seems as it was at the first touch of the match. Indeed, it tastes the same. But once knocked off the ash and the cigar is but a stump, the smoke goes in my eyes and—well, it is not the same by any means."

To tell the truth, this was but an excuse. I had come to suspect the lady to be an adventuress and did not look with complacency upon being shut up alone with her. She seemed to discern from my refusal to sit by her that I had my suspicions and, instead of attempting to allay them, began to work upon my fears.

"A man who scorns a lady's advances should be made to pay for his rudeness," she said sharply.

I considered this a threat, and to dis play an unconcern I did not feel I returned my paper. Indeed, there was nothing else for me to do. I felt sure that the woman would spring a trap on me for the purpose of extorting blackmail, and I saw before me a serious complication, a possible arrest and imprisonment. But the more inward trepidation I felt the more outward coolness I showed. I concentrated my attention upon maintaining the ash on the end of my cigar. Every time I removed the cigar from between my lips and put it back I did so with the utmost care. Presently the woman took out her watch and looked at it.

"We will reach the station at N. in five minutes," she said. "I need 500 francs. Choose between giving them to me or an arrest on a charge of assault when the train stops."

Had she been willing to settle for a napoleon I could not have yielded. I consider it demeaning in any man to pay blackmail. It may or may not be common sense, but I do not believe in making a beginning in that direction. I gave the woman no reply, but continued to appear interested in keeping the ash on the end of my cigar.

Finally the houses by the way grew thicker, and the train slowed down.

"I'll settle for 1,000 francs," said the woman. "In one minute more my price will be 1,500." At the same time she began to pull her apparel away to indicate that she had been through a struggle.

I smoked on.

In another minute the train pulled up at the station. The woman put her head out of the window and shrieked for the guard. He came, followed by officials and curious people, and drew open the door.

"This brute has assaulted me," said the woman. "Arrest him."

The guard and his followers all leveled their eyes at me. Taking what little remained of my cigar from my mouth, I extended it slowly toward the crowd on the platform.

"Could a man," I said, "interfere with any one and keep an ash like that on the end of a cigar?"

As I spoke the woman, upon whom flashed the reverse of the situation she had planned, brushed against me, slightly shaking me. The ash fell on the car floor.

There was a shout of derisive laughter at the woman, whose position was made the more absurd by the condition of her clothing.

Her experiment cost her a term in prison. NELSON MAXWELL.

Too Much Port.

Captain to the man at the wheel—another point apart, quartermaster, lady passengers—Goodness gracious! That's the second pint of port he has called for within a few minutes! How these captains drink!

EVADES COAL LAND ACT

Action Taken by Louisville & Nashville

PROPERTY DISPOSED OF

To the Stockholders—Interests in Land There Remain as Before—The Mines Now Under Lease to Coal Companies.

Cincinnati, O., Feb. 19.—Pursuant with the provisions of the Hepburn Act against transportation of coal in which the carrier has an interest, the announcement is made that the Louisville & Nashville railroad company has disposed of its holdings in the Louisville property company to individual Louisville and Nashville stockholders. The railroad as the property company bought thousands of acres of coal lands in southwestern Kentucky and built spur tracks to them. The lands were leased to coal companies. While the new company is not controlled by the Louisville & Nashville, the interests are identical, the change being made to meet conditions of the Hepburn Act.

READY FOR SOUTHERN PACIFIC.

Evidence For Rebate Cases To Go Before Grand Jury.

San Francisco, Feb. 19.—"There is nothing to delay the prosecution of the rebate cases against the Southern Pacific railroad as soon as the necessary instructions arrive from Washington," said United States District Attorney Devlin yesterday. "The federal grand jury is in session, meeting twice a week," he continued, "and as the law requires that indictments be returned before prosecutions are undertaken in the United States courts, the first procedure will be the submission of the evidence to the grand jurors." Evidence in the cases relating to this district, together with instructions from the department of justice has been forwarded from Washington by mail, but it had not arrived here yesterday.

OPPOSE TWO-CENT RATE.

Railroad Employees Drawing Up Petition to the Legislature.

New Orleans, Feb. 19.—The Picaune yesterday says: "A monster petition to the Mississippi legislature is being prepared by employees of railroads in that state in opposition to the proposition before the legislature to enact a two-cent passenger rate law. The employees are fearful that any further reduction in the earnings of the roads will cause reductions in salaries."

WON'T PASS RATE BILL.

No Railroad Legislation in South Carolina This Session.

Columbia, S. C., Feb. 19.—The State Senate last night rejected the railroad rate bill. This means that there will be no railroad rate legislation in South Carolina at the present session of the general assembly.

Train and Track.

The English call a freight a goods train.

The Canadian Pacific railway has placed an order for 400 composite steel and wood freight and ballast cars.

The Pennsylvania railroad's lines east of Pittsburgh last year carried 58,450,000 tons of coal, 8,150,000 more than in 1905.

At an extra cost of 10 per cent it is now possible to ship on some German railroads in heated cars fruits, vegetables and other goods likely to be injured by cold.

Sporting Notes.

The Automobile club of Buffalo has 1,023 members.

Charley Starr, infidel, has been added to the list of the Pirates for 1908. Starr was captain of the Youngstown club of the Ohio and Pennsylvania league last season.

Miss May Sutton, woman tennis champion, will not go to England this year. She declares that if the defeated English net stars desire to win back their honors they must come to the United States to get the chance.

Rough Wooing.

An Eskimo youth is qualified to marry when he has succeeded in killing a polar bear unaided, this feat being regarded as proof that he is capable of providing for the wants of a family. He starts forth at night to secure a wife, which he does by seizing the first girl he can surprise unawares.

How the World Views Suffering.

They shiver with cold, and they cower in dread. In the dark and the damp of night. Their features marred with want and sin. And the heartless, hopeless fight. Gods' curse to them not believed. He will not die and his kingdom dead. A crumb or a crust their daily bread.

He sits and frowns in his easy chair. Groomed and polished and fine. Long mirrors throw the image back. Of panel and pane and bric-a-brac. And rules of dress design.

He sits and frowns with a selfish care. A care for his gold and his gilt and his stars. That the world may look and long and stare.

Eye he has, but he will not see. Save what will please his sight; Ears he has, but he will not hear. Save for his own delight; Hands he has, but he will not do. A friend and a brother's part; A heart he has—but pity him. That he has so hard a heart.

—Home Herald.

Energy is well-nourished muscles plus well-nourished nerves.

Unedea Biscuit

are the greatest energy-makers of all the wheat foods.

5¢ In dust tight, moisture proof packages. Never sold in bulk.

NATIONAL BISCUIT COMPANY

MAGAZINE REVIEW.

They Did.

Maximilian Foster, whose short stories are familiar to readers of Everybody's, happened to notice the little sign above our desk that reads:

DO IT NOW!

"Do you find that that works well?" he asked us. "It's very effective," we told him. "That isn't what I asked you," said Mr. Foster. "I heard of a case just the other day that will show you the difference."

"The head of a large business house bought a number of those 'Do it now' signs and hung them up around his office. They were effective beyond expectations, and yet it can hardly be said that they worked well. When, after the first few days of those signs, the business man counted up the results, he found that the cashier had skipped out with \$250,000, the head bookkeeper had eloped with the stenographer, three clerks had asked for a raise in salary, and the office boy had lit out for the West to become a highwayman."—Everybody's Magazine.

The Curious Water Spaniel.

"There are two varieties of the water spaniel, the English and the Irish. The English water spaniel is seldom seen, but there are a number of fine specimens in this country of the Irish water spaniel, although they are not universally talked of or seen. But if, some fine day while walking down the street, you should meet a good-sized, liver-colored dog with long hair in tight curls all over its body, a fairly sharp nose pushing out from under a mop of brown curls, bright, intelligent eyes peering out from under the same mop of curls, and then, probably because he has used all his curls on his head and body and legs, a long, round bare tail, then you will know that you have certainly seen an Irish water spaniel."—From Suburban Life for February.

"The Days of Slavery Are Over."

In the February American Magazine Ray Stannard Baker begins his series of articles on the negro in the North. In the course of this first article Mr. Baker tells how "smart" negroes injure the reputation of the negro people and bring on prejudice among the whites. Here is one story Mr. Baker tells:

A Miss Eaton conducts a social settlement for negroes in Boston. One day a teacher said to one of the little negro boys in her class:

"Please pick up my handkerchief." The boy did not stir; she again requested him to pick up the handkerchief; then she asked him why he refused.

"The days of slavery are over," he said.

Why He Married Her.

May Sinclair, author of "The Divine Fire," contributes a delightful short story to the February McClure's—"Wilkinson's Wife."

"Nobody ever understood why he married her."

"You expected calamity to pursue Wilkinson—it always had pursued him,—but that Wilkinson should have gone out of his way to pursue calamity (as if he could never have enough of it) really seemed a most unnecessary thing."

"For there had been no pursuit on the part of the lady, Wilkinson's wife had the quality of her defects, and revealed herself chiefly in a formidable reluctance. It was understood that Wilkinson had prevailed only after an austere struggle. Her appearance sufficiently refuted any theory of unholy fascination or disastrous charm."

"Wilkinson's wife was not at all nice to look at. She had an insignificant figure, a small, square face, colorless hair scraped with difficulty to the top of her head, eyes with no lashes to protect you from their stare, a mouth that pulled at an invisible cord, a yellow skin stretched so tight over her cheek-bones that the red veins stood stagnant there; and with it all, poor lady, a dull, strained expression, hostile to further intimacy."

"Even in her youth she never could have looked young, and she was years older than Wilkinson. Not that the difference showed, for his marriage had made Wilkinson look years older than he was; at least, so it was said by people who had known him before that unfortunate event."

"It was not even as if she had been intelligent. Wilkinson had a gentle passion for things of intellect; his wife

seemed to exist on purpose to frustrate it."

None of Wilkinson's friends succeeded in solving the enigma, until Wilkinson himself offered a solution even more baffling than the original puzzle.

FINDS LOST KING THROUGH DREAMS.

Vision Twice Repeated Leads Husband to Discover Wife's Jewel.

New York, Feb. 19.—By means of a dream George Chester of West Livingston, N. J., recovered his wife's wedding ring, which was lost five years ago.

Chester says he dreamed that he was walking along Roseland avenue and had sat down on the roadside to rest. When about to rise his head slipped and removed a small stone near the trunk of a tree that shaded the road. As he got up he saw a bright object and picked it up. It was a wedding ring. Examining the inside of the band he distinctly saw engraved thereon the letters "G. C. to L. T. W." and recognized it as his wife's lost ring.

The next night he had the same dream, and when he awoke, he said, he jumped out of bed and made a memorandum of the place.

The third night the dream came again. After an early breakfast Chester and his wife drove along Roseland avenue looking for a tree whose branches shaded the road. When about midway between Roseland and Caldwell, Chester, pointing to a tree ahead, said, "There it is."

Jumping out of the carriage, he repeated the actions in his dream and found the ring.

Mrs. Chester recalled that about the time the ring was lost she had been to Caldwell with the children, and that on their way home they got out of the wagon on Roseland avenue and sat down on the roadside to eat lunch.

The Retort Venomous.

"So this is your widely advertised dollar table d'hôte dinner, is it?" said the indignant waiter as he was pushed aside an entire which he could not master. "Why, this is the last place in the world I would recommend to friends."

"Don't blame you, sir," said the sad faced waiter. "Send your enemies here."—New York Press.

No Option.

Barber (pressing in the mutilation)—Will you have a close shave, sir? Victim (with a gasp)—If I get out of this chair alive, I shall certainly consider it a very close shave.

Isolated Greece.

Greece is an isolated country of 25,041 square miles that supports a population of some 2,500,000 people. It has no railroad connection with any other country, and, being cut off from the rest of Europe by the mountains of Turkish Macedonia on the north, all commerce is by sea. The principal ports are Piræus (the port for Athens), Patras and Volo on the mainland and the island ports of Syra and Corfu.

The Greeks probably number all told 8,000,000, of whom about 4,000,000 are in Turkey.

Her Loving Friends.

Nan—Where do poor, dear Lil and the husband she has managed to get at last expect to spend their honeymoon? Fan—There won't be any honeymoon she's a wasp.—Chicago Tribune.

Snow.

The snow is beautiful, no doubt. On palace or in hotel. It's very fine to write about. But—very hard to shovel.

There is Only One

"Bromo Quinine"

That is

Laxative Bromo Quinine

USED THE WORLD OVER TO CURE A COLIC IN ONE DAY.

Always remember the full name. Look for this signature on every box. 25c.

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POWERS DO NOT FEAR WAR

Action Over Persia is Thought a "Bluff"

FRICTION OVER BALKANS

More Serious, However—May Cause a Long Delay in Reform—Attempt Made to Exterminate Action of Austria.

St. Petersburg, Feb. 19.—The proportions of a war scare, to which the sensational press is devoting its biggest headlines, have been engendered by the reports of Russo-Turkish conflict at the Persian frontier. The situation is taken seriously, not only in military circles but also by conservative politicians. M. Gurekoff, the leader of the majority in the Duma, Monday night announced his intention of raising at the next meeting of the commission of national defense the question of the nation's readiness for war, which he believes is of the most vital importance in view of the news from the Caucasus and all parts of Europe. Persians arriving from Siberia state that for several months there has been an unbroken movement of Siberian troops to the southwest in the direction of the Trans-Caspian district and Turkestan, from which points they could be most easily concentrated on the Turkish frontier.

The ambassadors of the leading powers, when interviewed Monday, considered the possibility of hostilities as being almost out of the question. They gave it as their opinion that the Turkish mobilization in Asia Minor and the warlike preparations in Russia are parts in the "gigantic game of bluff" which neither side would be able to carry to a finish on account of the lack of sinews of war. But they cherish no illusions over the speedy termination of the Austro-Russian difficulties in the Balkans and look forward to a long period of friction before the powers again unite to exert the necessary pressure on the sultan. Diplomats friendly to Austria endeavor to acquit Baron von Aehrenthal, the Austrian foreign minister, of the responsibility of disrupting the European concert. They said that the prospect of carrying through the proposed judicial reforms in Macedonia already had vanished into thin air before the Austrian railway scheme was proposed. The possibility that Turkey, with Russia's encouragement, might find means of evading her quasi-promise to permit the construction of the line is admitted, but the general opinion is that in this case Baron von Aehrenthal would have no alternative but to resign. Dispatches from London indicate that the rumor, believed to have been started in Vienna, that Russia contemplated the construction of the railroad from Danube to the Adriatic sea in compensation for the Salonika line, has been taken seriously abroad. The Russian foreign office emphatically reiterates its denial, however, that such a project is entertained as the necessary money is lacking.

A PLOT AGAIN ISWOLSKY.

Vatican Explanation of the Uproar in Russia.

Rome, Feb. 19.—The Vatican is taking a special interest in the affairs of M. Iswolsky, the Russian foreign minister, who was at one time the Russian minister accredited to the Holy See. The Vatican is confidentially informed that the rumor in the Russian press against the Austrian railway scheme in the Balkans has been caused by Russian politicians who hoped thereby to injure M. Iswolsky, because they considered him too liberal. It is learned also by the Vatican that the same politicians are responsible for the systematic announcement that M. Iswolsky is leaving the foreign office and that he will be appointed to an ambassadorship.

DEATH COMBAT OVER LOVE AFFAIR.

Threat Made 15 Years Ago Carried Into Execution in Brooklyn Street.

New York, Feb. 19.—John Scitender is dead and Rosi Morani is in a hospital dying as the result of an emphysema which began in Italy 15 years ago.

At that time both men were suitors for the hand of the same girl. Morani married her and Scitender threatened to kill his rival, even if he had to follow him around the world. Morani came to America with his bride and has lived in Brooklyn since. The men met on the street in Brooklyn for the first time since the threat was made. Scitender drew a razor and without a word slashed Morani about the head and shoulders.

The men grappled and rolled about on the sidewalk until Morani was able to draw a revolver, with which he shot his enemy. Scitender died half an hour later and Morani will not live.

Carpenters Growing.

The Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners has gained 141 new unions, and 29,631 more members are now on the books in good standing than was the case one year ago. The total membership in good standing on the books at the international office is 100,823, which means that the brotherhood has actually more than 250,000 members.

For an Eight Hour Day.

Alexander Law, president of the Eight Hour league, is in receipt of a letter from H. L. Bentley, president of the National Association of People's Party Clubs, stating that the league's proposal to make a universal eight hour day the paramount issue in the next election will be placed before the association at its meeting in April.

He Hadn't Expected It.

Mrs. Benham—Mother died today. Benham—Wonders will never cease.—Atlanta Constitution.

VIRGIN OIL OF PINE

contains all the elements that give to the pure tree the medicinal properties for which it is noted. This preparation will break up a cold in 24 hours and cure any cough that is curable. It is a perfect neutralizing agent for uric acid, and will heal and regulate the kidneys, relieving the most obstinate case of rheumatism caused by uric acid in the system.

Put up for dispensing through druggists only in 1-2-3-4-5 vials, each vial securely sealed in a round wooden case. Be sure to get the genuine Virgin Oil of Pine compound pure, prepared only by Laseh Chemical Co., Cincinnati, O.

Properties, uses and directions with every vial.

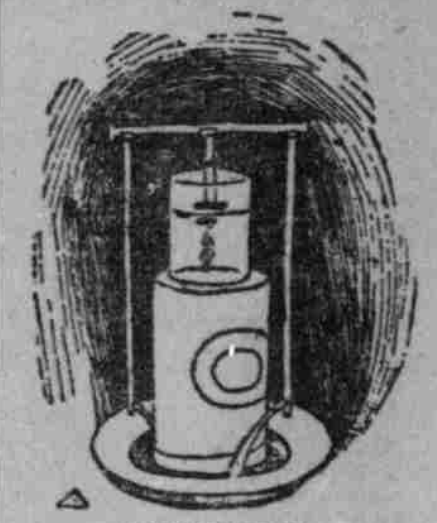
Young Folks

REVOLVING SIPHON.

An Interesting Experiment With Simple Apparatus.

The principle illustrated in the accompanying cut might readily serve to generate power without the use of machinery. It is given, however, merely as an interesting and easily made experiment.

Pour water into a good sized glass tumbler until it is two-thirds full and stand it upon a canister to give it the necessary elevation. Through the flat cork on the surface of the water is a



SIPHON IN ACTION.

about straw which transversely supports one of the same diameter. To the latter are attached two other straws of smaller diameter, each of these having a bit of straw about an inch in length attached to the end at an obtuse angle with the outlets cut on the slant to make easier the exit of the water.

All the joints are hollow and are made water tight with sealing wax. The ends of the transverse straw are likewise closed with the wax, but the ends of the depending straws are left open.

Now, to start this unique homemade apparatus in action let two persons suck the open ends of the depending straws until the water begins to flow, and when they take their mouths away the device will begin to revolve, while the water pours steadily from the open ends.

This revolving siphon will soon empty the tumbler, but you may keep the action up as long as you please by pouring water in as fast as the straws let it pour out.

TRAIN O' THOUGHT.

An Interesting Game That Requires Nimble Wits.

A good game for players of nimble wits is called train o' thought.

Here the hostess or the leader begins by announcing a word, which all players write at the head of their tablets.

Afterward each player writes below it in a straight line words representing the different places, things, persons or abstract subjects suggested by it.

A rough example of a train of thought and of the distance which it can cover in the space of a few moments would be:

Shakespeare. Stratford, European travel. Warwick festival. Lady Warwick, progressive new women. Colorado, San Francisco, earthquakes, Chile, revolution, Russia, czar, Louis XVI, etc.

At the end of fifteen minutes papers are collected, and the different tracks followed by the trains of thought will be found very fun provoking.

No prize is attached to this game. Each player after receiving his word continues to write connecting links until the bell sounds as a signal for discontinuance.

All begin with the same word and invariably end up differently.

A Little Lady.

Little Nellie had been taught never to put her fingers into her bowl of bread and milk, but always to use her spoon, like a little lady.

When she visited her grandfather one summer, she was allowed to eat her luncheon out on the step. One day a wee white pig came up and rudely pushed his little pink nose into her bowl of bread and milk. "Oh, oh!" screamed the baby. "Be a lady. Take a spoon, pig; take a spoon!"

Tea For Three.

Once Bobby Bear and Bubby Bear and Baby Bear played tea. They had a little tea set that held just enough for three.

And Bobby tied on Baby's bib, while Bubby fitted the pot. With just a spoon of tea apiece—and water boiling hot.

Now, Bobby Bear and Bubby Bear were quite polite and fine. They never hurried rudely when "two" time to sup or dine.

So Bobby, pouring the tea, took care that Bubby got the most.

But while they talked was Baby Bear ate every bit of toast!

—St. Nicholas.